

**James Baker to George Washington, June 10, 1757,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM LIEUTENANT JAMES BAKER.<sup>1</sup>**

FORT CUMBERLAND June 10th. 1757.

SIR

I Yesterday returned to this place with the Cherokees and have the Satisfaction to acquaint you that on the 5th. Instant we fell on two Tracks about 35 Miles beyond the three Forks of Yohagany in a small path that led towards this place, we had not followed those Tracks above eight or Ten miles, before we met 10 Frenchmen returning from a Scout, our foremost Indian discovered them first and sat down very cose [close] we all following his example, when the Frenchmen came within about fifty paces they saw our Men all Naked, and called to us and ask'd us who we were, at which time we all rising together fired on them which they returned, we waited not to lode again, but run in with our Tomahawks the Frenchmen then making of as fast as possible they cou'd, but the Indians out running them took two of them prisoners, the French lost six Men two killed dead on the Spot, two wounded, and two taken prisoners

Our loss tho' fewer in number is greater to us, the Swallow Warrior was Shot dead by a Ball in the head, and another Indian Wounded in both Thighs The Indians was so enraged at the loss of their head Man that it was impossible to save the other prisoner, Among the Frenchmen there was three Officers,<sup>2</sup> two of which was killed and the other we have here.

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I send the Instructions of two of the Officers here inclosed. We have suffered greatly on our return not tasting a morsel for four days, and carrying the Wounded Man on our backs, I cannot tell when I shall be come down the Indians are not determined

I am Sir Your Mo Obt. Humble Servant J. BAKER.

<sup>1</sup> The original is indorsed, in an unfamiliar handwriting, "From Captain John Baker," and is so indexed among the manuscript letters of Washington. The editor, however, takes it that this letter is from Lieutenant James Baker, as it was he who had been sent out. Washington's opinion of Lieutenant Baker was a high one. His successful encounter with the enemy on Turtle Creek, twenty miles from Fort Du Quesne, elicited Washington's complimentary letter of June 12, 1757, of which the following is an extract: "To Lieutenant Baker: Dear Sir,—I embrace this opportunity of congratulating you upon your safe return; and of thanking you for the services you have done the Public, in your late Scout and Skirmish. I was greatly surprized at not receiving an account of this matter from yourself; but am satisfied there was some particular reason why I did not. For I cannot believe that you who have behaved so well in one respect wou'd be so deficient in your duty in another."—Washington's Record Book, 2, p. 189.

<sup>2</sup> "Velistre, Lososais, and St. Oure, all ensigns."—Washington to Stanwix, June 25, 1757.